

James scores two so Wycombe win

Sports Mail Special Report

ILFORD 0 : WYCOMBE WANDERS. 2

EASILY the superior side throughout the first half of their Isthmian League game with Ilford, Wycombe Wanderers were foiled by brilliant goalkeeping, and had to be content with a solitary goal scored by their new centre forward, Peter James, who added another later on. Wycombe won 2-0.

Ilford: Cochrane, Smith, Rough, Commons, Claydon, Horsley, Platt, Birleson, Moore, Spooner, Maloy.
Wycombe W.: Brown, Beck, Moring, Truett, Fisher, Fryer, Atkins, Trott, James, Bates, Free.

Referee: A. H. Bedford.

Playing their liveliest football so far this season, Wycombe looked dangerous against a ponderous Ilford defence.

Eighteen-year-old winger Gerald Free engineered early moves which nearly led to goals, James hitting a first timer into the arms of the goalkeeper, and Trott leaping high to see his header touched over the cross-bar by goalkeeper Cochrane.

In between these escapes an Ilford full back took no chance with a Free corner kick, heading the ball out of his goalkeeper's reach.

ILFORD LUCKY

Ilford had an amazing piece of luck when a defender managed to block shots from Trott, James and Atkins in a furious goalmouth scrimmage.

With Wycombe's strong half-back line easily dominating the home attack, goalkeeper Ken Brown, making a rare first team appearance, scarcely had a difficult save to make in the first half.

Ilford lost their centre forward with an injured leg after 20 minutes. Soon after Paul Bates had hit the Ilford cross-bar with a skilful header he was brought down heavily in the penalty area, and the referee gave a penalty.

When Bates had recovered, full back Beck took the kick, but Cochrane brilliantly parried the ball. He then made an equally fine save, punching away James's shot from the rebound.

Ilford's robust tackling cost them several free-kicks and

they had Cochrane to thank for keeping them on terms.

Tricky touchline runs by Free harassed the Ilford defence, and after 35 minutes he put a glorious centre on to the head of JAMES for Wycombe's first goal.

Half-time: Ilford 0, Wycombe Wanderers 1.

It was all Wanderers on the restart and a close range snap header from JAMES put them two up within four minutes. Atkins supplying the centre.

But for casual finishing, Wanderers would have had the game safe at this stage. Atkins, normally one of the surest marksmen in the side, blazed two chances well wide.

As Wanderers soft-pedalled, Ilford's enthusiastic ten men tried hard to crack the Wycombe defence, but Brown was immaculately cool under pressure.

The strong kicking of Fisher came to Wycombe's rescue as the game deteriorated rapidly.

Maloy miskicked in front of a wide open Wycombe goal. After this let off, Fisher, Moring and Beck took no chances and booted the ball away first time, often into touch.

James was the lone Wanderer's forward who seemed still to be trying for goals.

SCRAPPY PLAY

Play became very scrappy with both teams scrambling the ball into the attack. Even Free, the artist of the first half, seemed to have lost his glitter and shot wildly with a possible chance.

Almost on time, Birleson angled a drive well wide of goal with only Brown to beat.

RESULT:

**ILFORD 0
WYCOMBE WANDERS 2**